

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/628,884

Examiner

Fred I. Ehichioya

Applicant(s)

SHLAES ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/04/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3 -6, and 24 - 70.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 04/04/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. During telephone conversation with Alan C. Brandt (Reg. No. 50,218), Attorney for the Applicants on July 9, 2007 authorizations for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims,

1. (Currently amended) A system for unifying data relating to an industry having a plurality of industry business context dimensions which define logical groupings of data related to the industry, the system comprising:

one or more computer systems;

data storage space associated with the one or more computer systems for storing data suitable for processing by at least one of the one or more computer systems;

a plurality of data sources, at least one-two data sources having a physical or logical structure differing from at least one other data source, each data source having data which is capable of a logical contextual grouping into at least one data source

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specific dimension which contains data related to at least one industry business context dimension, and each data source having a data access mechanism for facilitating querying thereof, wherein each dimension has at least one dimension instance and each of the at least two data sources have data relating to a dimension instance;

a database having a first and a second plurality of nodes, each of the first plurality of nodes representing an industry business context dimension, each of the second plurality of nodes representing a data source specific dimension of at least one of the data sources, each of the first plurality of nodes related to at least one other of the first plurality of nodes, and each of the second plurality of nodes related to at least one of the first plurality of nodes, wherein the database is stored in the data storage space;

a plurality of data source query function calls, each query function call querying a single data source regarding a single data source specific dimension, and each query function call using the data access mechanism of the single data source to facilitate access to the single data source; and

a complex query comprising a plurality of data source query function calls, the complex query querying the at least two data sources for data relating to the dimension instance, the complex query calling the plurality of data source query function calls to perform the querying of the at least two data sources for the data relating to the dimension instance, and wherein the data relating to the dimension instance is retrieved from each of the at least two data sources.

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24. (Currently amended) An apparatus for unifying a plurality of data sources storing data related to an industry, each of the plurality of data sources being a data source instance of a data source type, the apparatus including:

one or more computer systems;

Data storage space associated with the one or more computer systems for storing data suitable for processing by at least one of the one or more computer systems, the data storage space including:

a first plurality of nodes storing information defining a corresponding plurality of business context dimensions for the industry, the first plurality of nodes being interconnected in a manner that represents relationships between the corresponding business context dimensions; and

a second plurality of nodes storing information relating data stored within the plurality of data sources to at least a portion of the plurality of business context dimensions for at least one of i) each data source type represented within the plurality of data sources and ii) each data source instance represented within the plurality of data sources, the second plurality of nodes mapped to the first plurality of nodes based on corresponding business context dimensions, each node of the second plurality of nodes storing information defining at least one business context dimension instance from the plurality of data sources, each business context dimension instance relating to an instance of stored data within the corresponding data source instance associated with the corresponding business context dimension; and

a first logic element in operative communication with the first and second pluralities of nodes to selectively request desired information from the plurality of data sources based at least in part on selection of one or more of the plurality of business context dimensions defined by the first plurality of nodes, wherein the first logic element identifies data source instances and business context dimension instances associated with the at least one selected business context dimension based at least in part on information stored in the first and second pluralities of nodes, wherein the first logic element is in operative communication with the plurality of data sources to selectively submit a query to each identified data source instance for the desired information and receive a result in response to the query.

44. (Currently amended) An apparatus for unifying a plurality of data related to an industry, including:

one or more computer systems;

data storage space associated with the one or more computer systems for storing data suitable for processing by at least one of the one or more computer systems, the data storage space including:

a plurality of data sources storing data related to the industry, each of the plurality of data sources being a data source instance of a data source type;

a first plurality of nodes storing information defining a corresponding plurality of business context dimensions for the industry, the first plurality of nodes being

interconnected in a manner that represents relationships between the corresponding business context dimensions; and

a second plurality of nodes storing information relating data stored within the plurality of data sources to at least a portion of the plurality of business context dimensions for at least one of i) each data source type represented within the plurality of data sources and ii) each data source instance represented within the plurality of data sources, the second plurality of nodes mapped to the first plurality of nodes based on corresponding business context dimensions, each node of the second plurality of nodes storing information defining at least one business context dimension instance from the plurality of data sources, each business context dimension instance relating to an instance of stored data within the corresponding data source instance associated with the corresponding business context dimension; and

a first logic element in operative communication with the first and second pluralities of nodes to selectively request desired information from the plurality of data sources based at least in part on selection of one or more of the plurality of business context dimensions defined by the first plurality of nodes, wherein the first logic element identifies data source instances and business context dimension instances associated with the at least one selected business context dimension based at least in part on information stored in the first and second pluralities of nodes, wherein the first logic element is in operative communication with the plurality of data sources to selectively submit a query to each identified data source instance for the desired information and receive a result in response to the query.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3 – 6, and 24 - 70 are allowed over the prior art of record.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior arts of record, (USPN 6,853,994) discloses a methodology whereby a user can interact with a GUI to fully define the desired dimensions associated with the selected measures for the purposes of metric analysis but fail to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature "a plurality of data source query function calls, each query function call querying a single data source regarding a single data source specific dimension, and each query function call using the data access mechanism of the single data source to facilitate access to the single data source; and a complex query comprising a plurality of data source query function calls, the complex query querying the at least two data sources for data relating to the dimension instance, the complex query calling the plurality of data source query function calls to perform the querying of the at least two data sources for the data relating to the dimension instance, and wherein the data relating to the dimension instance is retrieved from each of the at least two data sources" and (USPN 6,643,639) discloses multi-dimensional data for expressing query and results that enables users to completely manage their search in a manner optimized for simplicity and clarity of logic but fail to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature "one or more display objects comprising a virtual folder, the virtual folders include numerical representations of the number of items that virtual folders contain, and wherein the filtering of the items causes the numerical representations to

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be correspondingly reduced as recited in the independent claim 1 and similar limitation of independent claims 24, 44, 49 and 67.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred I. Ehichioya whose telephone number is 571-272-4034. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Fred I. Ehichioya
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2162

Fred Ehichioya

Mohammad Ali
MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

July 18, 2007